threat by the US Government to the laws of our country in regard to foreign investment, particularly on limits of equity investment, Now, about equity participation, to a certain extent I feel that our Government 's economic policy is responsible for inviting this from the US Government because in our economic policy, we have opened our doors, we have kept our doors wide open, for foreign multinationals, particularly US multinationals. The U.S. multi-nationals are coming in a big way. Perhaps they are not satisfied with the restrictions that we have imposed on them. That is why they want that those restrictions should be withdrawn. I would like to know how we are going to fight these types of threats from the U.S. Government. Are we going to do it only by protesting and by mobilising the opinion of Third-World countries against it or by changing our economic policies also which are responsible for inviting these threats? I mean the open-door policy of inviting the multi-nationals. Are we going to change this policy so that the U.S.Government can learn the lesson that we are not allowing them to exploit our markets? They want our markets for more exploitation. We have to put a check on their exploitation in our country by barring the entry of foreign mutinationals in a big way.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member is free to criticise our policies and we shall take full note of his views. I hope he is not trying to justify the U.S. action by saying that it is the result of our policies. I would be surprised if he is supporting the United States' action. So far as the question is concerned, the United States is saying that our policy is restrictive and not that it is too open. He is saying that if we had not opened, there would have been no action. I am afraid that there is some misundersanding of the whole process as such.

Opening of Yarn Depots

*45. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken for opening yarn depots for making yarn available to handloom weavers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the number of depots to be opened; their locations, *modus operandi* of buying and selling of yarn and also whether any subsidy is to be given to the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Twenty yarn depots are proposed to be opened by the end of the current financial year in yarn deficit States. The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) will be the nodal agency for implementing the yearn depot scheme and will set up the depots either directly or in collaboration with State Sector/Cooperative mills, State Handloom Development Corporations. The locations of the depots will be in areas of concentration of handloom weavers which will be decided in consultation with the Directors of Handlooms of the States concerned. Yarn will be supplied to weavers at mill-gate prices.

Each yarn depot is expected to supply about 5000 bales of yarn over a period of a year and the total cost of the yarn estimated to be supplied by these depots in a year is of the order of Rs. 80 crore @ Rs. 8,000/- per bale. The NHDC will be reimbursed the cost of trasportation, interest on working capital and other

overhead charges incurred by it on the supply of yarn to the extent of 5 per cent of the turn over.

NHDC will obtain firm indents from the State Handloom authorities and in turn place orders on the spinning mills for supply of the required of yarn of designated counts. NHDC and the State Handloom authorities concerned will work out the necessary organisational arrangements to ensure that yarn is sold/supplied to weavers. No direct subsidy to handloom weavers is envisaged under this scheme.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, the Minister had a meeting with the weavers recently. It was shown on the T.V. also. I want to know whether the handloom weavers as such are satisfied with this system of 20 yarn depots which are being opened in the country or, according to them, they still need a different system so that they get proper supply of yarn.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, the meeting to which the hon. Member is referring, consisted of representatives of the weavers' organisations, State Handloom Development Corporations, mill-owners, Indian Cotton Mills Federation, the South India Mills Federation and the representatives of the State Governments. We had a long discussion with them and they assured us that they would hold the prices. A number of decisions have been taken. The results are yet to come. Even I am not satisfied with all that we are doing. Handloom is a very important sector. After agriculture, it is the biggest unorganised sector in the country and the Government is committed to giving it all protection in every possible way. The decisions at this meeting as well as the orders that we have passed about the yarn depots on which the main question is based, have been taken with a view to giving as much assistance as possible to the handloom sector. One of the decisions that we took in the last meeting was that there should be a monitoring committee which should meet every quarter and see that the decisions taken are properly implemented in the inrerest of the handloom weavers.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, as the Minister knows, there is the paradox that even in spite of adequate cotton being available and in spite of the yarn production going up, the textile industry is sick. I do not want to bring in the textile policy here because that will not arise out of the main question. But limited to yarn, the question that really arises is that while handloom weavers still find that there is shortage of yarn, we are allowing export of yarn. I understand that there is a foreign exchange crisis. There is a crunch and exports have to be encouraged. But I want an assurance from the Minister that yarn supplies to the handloom and powerloom sector will be adequately taken care of while exports are allowed. There has also been a talk of cotton exports being allowed for an entirely different reason in order to maintain the cotton prices. But as far as yarn is concerned, the issue comes up again and again in the House. I want an assurance or a reply from the Minister stating that he has taken totality view about the yarn production that is going to be this year, about the yarn exports envisaged by the Government and whether we have considered the availability of yarn, especially for the handloom and powerloom sector because the employment generation in the sector is very large compared to the organised sector. I want to know whether the requirements have been considered fully before the exports are allowed.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, I will take this opportunity to dispel the impression that export of cotton or yarn is deterimental to

the interests of the handloom sector. Sir, in the cotton, we have allowed only two varieties for export and in a limited quantity. One is Bangla Delhi cotton which we produce here. It is non-spinnable, and for which locally we have no use. We have a good market in Japan. And, therefore, it does not come into the yarn sector at all but for some mixing purpose. On the other hand, we are importing extra long staple cotton, and that also in a limited quantity. Even that is not immediately needed. Handloom requirements are of the middle counts which we are very conscious of. And even in export of cotton, we are monitoring in such a way that the handloom requirements are given priority. And there also, there are limits, and the limits are not reached actually. So, it is a small percentage of the total production of yarn. And 40 counts, etc. are very strictly controlled. It is only in 60 counts and above where we have shown a little liberality. And I assure the House through you, Sir, and the hon. Member who asked the question that the interests of the weavers are paramount and we will do nothing by way of export or otherwise which will affect them.

श्री सोहन लाल सुसिया : क्या सरकार यह विश्वास दिलायेगी कि सूत डिपो खोलते समय यह डिपो बुनकर भाइयों की बस्तियों के बीच में, या उनके नजदीक ही खोले जायेंगे, ताकि उनकी और बहुत सी जो दिक्कतें हैं, वह न होने पायें ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : डिपो कहां खोले जायें, इस संबंध में हम राज्य सरकारों से संपर्क में हैं । हमारा यही विचार है कि उनको ऐसे शहरों में या ऐसे इलाकों में खोला जाये जहां पर बहुत ज्यादा तादाद में बुनकर रहते हों, काम करते हों, उनके मुहल्लों में खोलें या कहीं खोलें, लेकिन उसी क्षेत्र में होंगे जहां पर सुविधा उपलब्ध है, जहां पर राज्य सरकार का सहयोग भी उपलब्ध हैं और जहां पर सुविधा से हम बुनकरों को सूत दे सकते हैं ।

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the Government is considering the import of extra long staple cotton. And I want to know whether the Minister knows that the cotton growers who are producing extra long staple cotton in Guntur and Prakasam districts have committed suicide in mass numbers. At the same time, 40 handloom weavers in the above two districts have also committed suicide. I want to know whether the Government took notice of these mass suicides among the cotton growers and handloom weavers in Guntur and Prakasam districts, and whether the Government is opening any depots in those two districts among the 20 announced by the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, as I said, we are in touch with the State Governments. At this meeting which I called two-three days back, they were there. And we are consulting them as to the places where we should open them. Andhra Pradesh is one of them. Though there is a doubt whether Anhdra Pradesh is short of total production of yarn or not, we have taken the view of weavers in certain areas of Andhra Pradesh. And Andhra Pradesh has been included in the scheme. And in consultation with the State Government we will open these depots so that we can give help to the weavers.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, the point is of augmenting the supply of yarn because there has been an abnormal rise in the price of yarn which is making the production costs high and, therefore, there is a crisis. Sir, while asking the Government about its decision to augment the supply of yarn, may I ask from the hon. Minister whether a plan has been undertaken to turn some of the National Textile Corporation mills into only spinning mills ? There are mills which

are doing weaving as well as spinning. I want to know whether the Government, in order to augment the supply of yarn, has decided to turn those composite mills into only spinning mills. That is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question is whether, in this respect, the Government has decided that out of 13 NTC mills of West Bengal three will be closed down and ten will only be producing yarn.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, I will start by answering the last question first. No decision has been taken to close down any NTC mills, spinning or otherwise. As regards using the NTC mills for production of yarn, this is exactly our policy with regard to the weaving segments of NTC mills. Most of them are not profitable. They are antiquiated looms. So, we are trying to phase them out and we want to emphasise that in respect of spinning aspect of the operations of NTC, modernisation is being done and we would see that modernisation of the spinning yarn units in the NTC proceeds a pace.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Sir, I want to know from you how are you allowing me to be sitting in this august House, because through the grace of the AGP Government I have forfeited my right to be a Member because my name is not there in the voters' list. I want to know from you how are you allowing me to be a Member here. (*Interruptions*). My name is not in the voters' list. So, I have forfeited my right. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, my point is will the Members of the Treasury Benches break parliamentary practice and turn the House into a quarelling house ? Will it be allowed ? (*Interruptions*). This is question hour. Will it be allowed like this ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : So far as I am concerned, Mr. Bhattacharjee, it is a very simple thing. You are a Member of this House and the question is on textiles. I have permitted you to put a question. If you want to walk out, I cannot do anything. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE : My name is not there in the voters' list.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : What have we to do with the electoral rolls now ?

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अाहलुवालिया : यह व्यवस्था का सवाल है ।... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : This is question hour.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : You may raise it after 12 o' clock. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : So far as you are concerned, you are a Member of this House. I have permitted you to ask a question So far as your name not being there in the Assam List is concerned, that question will arise when you seek re-election to the Rajya Sabha. So far as we are concerned, you are a full-fledged Member of the Rajya Sabha. There is no problem about that and you can rest assured that Rajya Sabha is not in any way going against you. (*Interruptions*). I am sure, if there has been a mistake, the Government of Assam will definitely set right that mistake. That is all.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, जब मैं नई दिल्ली से लड़ा था तो मेरा नाम भी वोटर लिस्ट में नहीं था, बाद में शामिल किया गया । इनका नाम भी बाद शामिल हो जायेगा ।... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Vajpayee you are not

being asked whether you are a citizen of India. But we are being asked. That is the whole question.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : That is in pursuance of the Act you have passed here.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : No. (*Interruptions*). That is a mis-interpretation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us proceed with the question about textiles. the question about voters' list can be discussed at any other time. Are you putting your question ? Next question.

*46. [*The questioner (Shri Shanker Sinh Vaghela) was absent. For answer vide* Col. 36-37 *infra*]

Refinancing by NABARD

*47. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 190 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd February, 1989 and state :

(a) whether NABARD refinance has since been resumed in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and some other States ;

(b) if so, what is the basis of modality worked out ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that if funds are not immediately released to the small farmers, the Kharif operations in some States will come to a standstill ; and

(d) if so, whether Government will reconsider their decision and start releasing funds to the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The availment of refinance facilities from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) by participating banks is subject to conditions/instructions laid down by RBI/NABARD in regard to issue and repayment of loans, interest rates, conversion/rescheduleement, etc. It was noticed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NABARD that some Co-operative Banks were not fully complying with instructions issued by them. NABARD , therefore, had advised the State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and State Land Development Banks (SLDBs) against providing refinance if there was failure on their part in compliance of the instructions laid down for the purpose. This had resulted in non-availability of refinance to certain SCBs/SLDBs for a short period until the concerned banks gave an undertaking that they would follow the instructions laid down by RBI/NABARD. At present refinance facilities are available to all States, and the flow of credit for kharif crops has been ensured.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, everybody is standing and speaking and I cannot listen.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is your question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : This is such an important question . How can I forget to call it ? It is very vital to my State.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni